

Interview with Will Goldenberg



In what year and at what school were you awarded the Richard J. Guadagno Memorial Scholarship?

I was awarded the undergraduate scholarship in 2007 at Humboldt State University.



What did it mean to you to be selected for the Richard J. Guadagno Scholarship?

I was extremely surprised to receive the scholarship especially due to the unique nature of my project and because I know that research scholarships are very competitive at HSU. This type of award is also very humbling, and allows the recipients to conduct high quality research while honoring the memory of a fellow scientist.



What kind of legacy do you think Richard has left behind?

Along with all others that have dedicated their lives to preserving America's wildlife heritage, Richard set the standard of excellence that young biologists like myself aspire to. While much of wildlife work today is statistics and research, those like Richard who still work hands on managing lands for wildlife are a testament to the earliest of game managers. The knowledge they possess is essential for all wildlife students, and Richards passing reminds me how to interact with nature, not just how to study it.



How did the scholarship affect your academic career?

The scholarship affected my academic career positively. Without this funding I would have never been able to finance my film projects while still pursuing my degree. Instead of all my money going towards tuition, I was able to use the scholarship money for projects that would both educate people about local conservation and springboard my career as an outdoor filmmaker. This type of opportunity is unparalleled for those who want to supplement their time in the classroom with real world learning and experiences.



What was your project about and some brief results?

The project was a documentary film about the management and conservation of western snowy plovers in the Humboldt county region. It was a subject I personally felt strong about and one that I had been involved with as a field biologist. The film (Ploverized(2008)) was intended as an outreach tool and is currently used by the nonprofit organization Fiends of The Dunes as part of their coastal naturalists training. The film has also garnered international attention at wildlife film festivals receiving merit

awards in conservation and cinematography at The International Wildlife Film Festival (Missoula, MT), and “the people’s choice award” at The Humboldt International Film Festival (Arcata, CA).



What are you up to now?

I will be graduating this May 08 with a degree in Wildlife Management and Conservation with a minor in Cinematography. I will be working with the Wildlife Conservation Society’s Artic Research Program as a field biologist on the North Slope of Alaska for this summer. I am also currently preparing proposals for a US FWS film documenting the recovery, conservation and management of Aleutian Geese.



Is there any advice you would like to give to future applicants?

Often times students are busy enough with daily academics that pursuing funding for research seems difficult, but in reality proposals and applications are easy if you have clear ideas. You should also keep your eyes open for unique opportunities and remember that funding can come from the most unexpected places, you just have ask. Always let other people know what your goals are and the lengths you are willing to go to pursue them. You have to be clear about what you want but remember that you can’t complete a project by desiring the end result. Also, too many people line up to excel in the same ways as everybody else. I say if you start something new and find a unique way to spread your passion for wildlife, you’re on the right track. Never doubt the validity of your true goals. Get up and make it happen!

Interview with Alana Oldham



In what year and at what school were you awarded the Richard J. Guadagno Memorial Scholarship?

I received in the scholarship in 2005, as an undergraduate at Humboldt State University.



What did it mean to you to be selected for the Richard J. Guadagno Scholarship?

It was a wonderful recognition of the effort that I had put into study design and development and allowed me to reduce the number of hours I worked at my reception job while doing my fieldwork, as well as buy supplies. Had I not received the Richard J. Guadagno Memorial Scholarship, the quality and quantity of my research would have been significantly diminished.



What kind of legacy do you think Richard has left behind?

A legacy of conservation, management based on sound research, and enthusiasm for wildlife.



How did the scholarship affect your academic career?

It enhanced the quality of my project which lead to my later receiving the Yokum Award, for a distinguished wildlife senior. It also helped me build ties to researchers and professionals who have been, and will continue to be, invaluable to my development as a biologist.



What was your project about and some brief results?

I examined river otter latrine use in relation to social signaling. I found that otters respond to the scat of unfamiliar individuals but not to familiar scat and that the respond the removal of marks at their latrines with increased deposition of anal jellies and urine.



What are you up to now?

I am completing my last semester of graduate school at HSU.



Is there any advice you would like to give to future applicants?

Get as much help with the study design as you possibly can before embarking on the fieldwork; it's not fun to have to throw out a month worth of data because you made a silly mistake. Have fun!

Interview with Alissa Fogg



In what year and at what school were you awarded the Richard J. Guadagno Memorial Scholarship?

Academic Year 2006/2007, Humboldt State University



What did it mean to you to be selected for the Richard J. Guadagno Scholarship?

I was honored to receive such a prestigious award. Wildlife habitat research is essential to restoration and conservation endeavors and I was overjoyed to hear that my project was supported by the Guadagno Scholarship.



What kind of legacy do you think Richard has left behind?

My experience with Richard's memory is visits to the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. His skills as a resource and refuge land manager lent many improvements to the HBNWR and will not be forgotten.



How did the scholarship affect your academic career?

The scholarship made it possible for me to collect field data for my thesis research. If I wasn't supported by the Guadagno Scholarship, I would not have been able to devote 3 months to fieldwork.



What was your project about and some brief results?

I study the foraging ecology of Western Wood-pewees in montane meadows and coniferous forests of the southern Sierra Nevada. I am interested in the effects of historical and current management practices in meadows and forests. Preliminary results indicate similarities in foraging rates and insect abundance in grazed and ungrazed meadows but habitat availability for pewees is limited in grazed meadows. This summer, I will confirm these results and develop recommendations for land managers in the southern Sierra who are interested in increasing bird diversity and enhancing productivity in meadows and surrounding coniferous forests.



What are you up to now?

I am finishing my 4th semester at Humboldt State and will return to the southern Sierra Nevada in May. This fall I will complete my analysis, write my thesis and hope to graduate in spring 2009.



Is there any advice you would like to give to future applicants?

A strong commitment to wildlife and their habitats and a willingness to cooperate with your coworkers and community is vitally important to the future of wildlife management and conservation.

Interview with Dominic Bachman



In what year and at what school were you awarded the Richard J. Guadagno Memorial Scholarship?

I was awarded the scholarship for academic year 2006/07 as a graduate student at HSU.



What did it mean to you to be selected for the Richard J. Guadagno Scholarship?

For me it meant a lot. I was able to both work at Humboldt Bay refuge and receive graduate level support from a 9/11 hero as well as a local refuge manager.



What kind of legacy do you think Richard has left behind?

His memory will be strengthened by the HBNWR visitor center and placard rock for many generations to come.



How did the scholarship affect your academic career?

This scholarship was a big help because it paid for all my tuition, which allowed me to focus on my project.



What was your project about and some brief results?

I studied the foraging ecology of Aleutian geese at Humboldt Bay NWR on the Salmon Creek Unit. I found that the geese preferred the grassland pastures that were fertilized compared to those that were not.



What are you up to now?

I am a refuge private lands biologist at Modoc NWR in Alturas, CA.



Is there any advice you would like to give to future applicants?

Being involved in the Fish and Wildlife Service as well as the refuge system is a sure way to show your commitment to the ideals Rich had.

Interview with Kristin Mull



In what year and at what school were you awarded the Richard J. Guadagno Memorial Scholarship?

I was awarded the scholarship for the 2004/2005 academic year at Humboldt State University as a graduate student.



What did it mean to you to be selected for the Richard J. Guadagno Scholarship?

It was a great honor to be selected for the Richard J. Guadagno Memorial Scholarship. To be recognized for academic and research achievement in memory of Richard's service and commitment to natural resource conservation was exciting and humbling.



What kind of legacy do you think Richard has left behind?

I think Richard's legacy is one of working in service to our country by providing for the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitat.



How did the scholarship affect your academic career?

Receiving the scholarship allowed me to focus on efficiently completing my degree. Because it was such an honor, I was especially motivated to complete my thesis and submit it for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.



What was your project about and some brief results?

My Master's thesis focused on the selection of spawning habitat by coho salmon in Freshwater Creek, California. I was interested in the reasons coho salmon choose particular locations to build redds and not others in seemingly good habitat. By evaluating and modeling various microhabitat parameters, I found that a site was most likely to be used for spawning by coho salmon if the substrate was mostly gravel- and pebble-sized particles, if it was located at a pool tail or run tail, and if it was near existing redds. These parameters may be important to fisheries managers evaluating the relative quality of coho salmon spawning habitat in other watersheds.



What are you up to now?

I work as a fisheries biologist for the Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks, Alaska.



Is there any advice you would like to give to future applicants?

I would just offer encouragement to applicants to continue pursuing a career in natural resources management. Just as Richard showed through his commitment to resource conservation, their enthusiasm and hard work will go a long way in helping to protect vital fish and wildlife resources.

Interview with Carrie-Carter Griffin



In what year and at what school were you awarded the Richard J. Guadagno Memorial Scholarship?

I was awarded the scholarship in 2007 at College of the Redwoods



What did it mean to you to be selected for the Richard J. Guadagno Scholarship?

It felt like a validation of my effort and my goals. It has been hard for me to return to school after being gone for a while, and yet to also know that I have a goal and that school is a part of that goal... being selected meant that others recognized my goals as important.



What kind of legacy do you think Richard has left behind?

A legacy of dedication to natural resource management.



How did the scholarship affect your academic career?

It enabled me to take online classes during the semester I was working out of state.



What are you up to now?

I am currently working as a seasonal permanent employee with the Forest Service in Oregon. Last semester I was attending school full time at Humboldt State University, and I will be returning to HUS in the fall.



Is there any advice you would like to give to future applicants?

Apply!